

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-286 are pending in the application, with 1, 21, 35, 65, 119, 123, 130, 147, 172-175, 186, 196, 216, and 228 being the independent claims. Claims 20, 30, 96-97, 108-112, 115-118, 128, 213, and 277 have been amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The present application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

II. The Amendments

The claims have been amended merely to reduce multiple dependencies and to correct certain errors in claim numbering. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments and their prompt entry is respectfully requested.

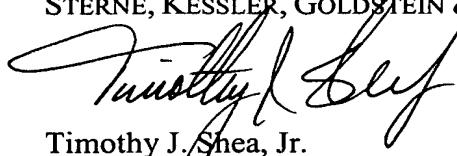
Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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